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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/766,594	CHEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Christopher H. Bond	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/15/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-37.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|

DETAILED ACTION

1. The applicants' arguments and amendments have been received on October 15, 2007. Claims 1, 17 and 32 have been amended. Currently, claims 1-37 are pending in the current application.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-37 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

4. The prior art of record, specifically Overton USPAT 7,288,027 (Overton); Heller et al., US PUB 2003/0216962 (Heller); and Leen et al., USPAT 6,899,628 (Leen) do not explicitly teach or suggest a system and method for automatically establishing a trust rating for players of an online game when the gaming session involves a disagreement about the official results of game. Furthermore, the official results are determined by both the users' computer systems and existing trust ratings of each participating player. The prior art of references fail to also teach regulating a player's trust rating based on results reported by a player's computer system and the alleged results reported by players.

5. Overton presents a cheating detection system, whereby a gaming application is monitored by a cheating analyzer connected to the gaming network. Overton explains, (Columns 7-11) that cheating is detected by using (column 7, lines 3-28) gaming software instead of hardware to compare and analyze data to identify cheaters. Suspected cheaters (column 8, lines 6-9) are reported to the online gaming services, a cheater analyzer, etc. A gaming system that has been identified as capable of cheating

(column 8, lines 44-47; column 9, lines 50-54), may be prevented from playing an online game or games in any other multi-player gaming environments. Overton mentions, (column 11, lines 18-37), that cheater reporting can be done both automatically, without the knowledge of the player, and player can report other players as cheater, but are limited to players participating in the same gaming session, to prevent players from ruining another player's reputation. Overton does not teach nor establishing a trust rating, when a game's outcome is reportedly disputable, wherein the game's outcome is determined by results reported by the participants' computers and each player's trust rating, nor increasing a player's trust rating if the gaming results reported by both players and player's computers are undisputed.

6. Heller presents a method and system for automatic feedback and player denial. Heller's invention (Heller, paragraphs [0006 - 0010]), automatically maintains behavioral standards in an electronic community in response to feedback from members of the electronic community. If a threshold value is exceeded in a category of conduct (i.e. cheating during a game), an action directed toward the specified member is automatically implemented. Heller further discloses in paragraphs [0050 - 0069], That players provide feedback regarding other players during a gaming session. Heller mentions in paragraph [0053] that the net effect of feedback (positive or negative) may have a short-term or long-term effect on the player's (i.e. player receiving the feedback) participation in a current or future game. This action determined by the electronic community based on a player's threshold can either be done automatically, or done manually by an operator. Heller discloses [0062] that a console displays a list of

prospective players for whom a user can provide feedback. Moreover, Heller discloses [0065] a player may decide not to leave feedback. Another key point to Heller's invention (paragraph [0069]), is that feedback may be adjusted as a function of the credentials of the feedback submitter. Heller does not teach nor establishing a trust rating, when a game's outcome is reportedly disputable, wherein the game's outcome is determined by results reported by the participants' computers and each player's trust rating, nor increasing a player's trust rating if the gaming results reported by both players and player's computers are undisputed.

7. Leen presents a a server based game system that provides event management, generates statistics and user profile information, provides game advice to a user of a gaming application. Leen, like Heller, uses predetermined thresholds (Leen, column 8, lines 34-53) to compare against event information, statistic information, and profile information of the user to determine cheating. Leen does not teach nor establishing a trust rating--and teaches away from trust ratings (Leen, column 19, lines 35-38), when a game's outcome is reportedly disputable, wherein the game's outcome is determined by results reported by the participants' computers and each player's trust rating, nor increasing a player's trust rating if the gaming results reported by both players and player's computers are undisputed.

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

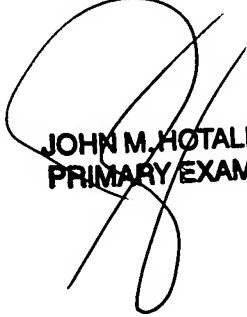
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher H. Bond whose telephone number is (571) 272-9760. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30am - 6pm (Eastern Standard Time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan M. Thai can be reached on (571) 272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Chris Bond


JOHN M. HOTALING, II
PRIMARY EXAMINER